REMARKS

Claims 24, 26 – 37 and 39 – 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

obvious under U.S. Patent 5,809,321 issued to Hansen et al in view of U.S. Patent 5,892,962

issued to Cloutier that describes a FPGA based processor. The Examiner states that Hansen

(discussed in detail in the last office action) does not "disclose that at least one of said

configurable MPEs is configured to act, at least in part, as a control processing element to control

the distribution of digital data to MPEs" at page 3 first full paragraph of the Office Action mailed

August 5, 2004. Therefore, in order to remedy Hansen's admitted deficiency, the Examiner cited

Cloutier that discloses "a computer architecture for parallel processors...wherein one of the

processing elements is configured to act as a processing controller for the other processing

elements (col. 11, lines 62 – 67)".

At column 11, lines 62 – 67:

"the first FPGA is adapted to be programmed to function *exclusively* as a
process controller for the one or more other FPGAs; and

the one or more other FPGAs are adapted to be programmed to function
exclusively as processing elements."

In this way, Cloutier requires that each FPGA be programmed to exclusively act either as

a processing element or as a process controller such that once programmed, the FPGA can

perform only a processing function or only a controller function and not both.

In contrast, the invention teaches a system and method of distributed processing of media

data using a number of configurable media processing elements (MPEs) where at least one MPE

is configured "to act, at least in part, as a control processing element suitably arranged to control

the distribution of said digital data between some or all of the MPEs, schedule tasks for the MPEs,

wherein each of the distributed MPEs process a selected portion of the digital data in concert with the

other MPEs". In this way, the at least one MPE configured to act as a control processing element
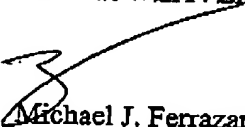
also processes a selected portion of the digital data. In this way, the at least one MPE provides both control functions as well as data processing functions (unlike either Hansen or Cloutier), further improving the processing efficiency over that provided by systems taught by either Hansen or Cloutier.

Therefore, with the inventive system, any one of the MPEs can be configured to act, at least in part, as a controlling element thereby providing control functions in addition to any data processing functions, if necessary. In this way, the invention provides a configurable system and method that is able to configure itself in order to optimize processing of the data.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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